

OF NOTE

Wetzel "Judge" Whitaker Dies



Wetzel Orson ("Judge") Whitaker, the film director and producer credited with establishing the motion picture studio at BYU, died Nov. 1, 1985, at Cottonwood Hospital in Murray, Utah. He was 77.

Whitaker was born in Heber City, Utah, on Sept. 30, 1908, and spent his youth in Utah and Colorado. He attended the Chicago Institute of Art and later worked as art director of the *St. Louis Times* in St. Louis, Mo.

In the 1930s he moved to Los Angeles to work in the animated cartoon industry and spent two years with Screen Gems, a subsidiary of Columbia Studio. During a total of 16 years, from 1932-33 and 1936-52, Whitaker worked as an animator with Walt Disney Studios where he received screen credit on such films as "Alice in Wonderland," "Peter Pan," "Cinderella" and numerous short subjects.

In 1952 he took a leave of absence from Disney and moved to Heber Valley where he and his brothers developed the Homestead resort. During the same year BYU President Ernest L. Wilkinson invited Whitaker to come to BYU to establish the De-

partment of Motion Picture Production. He was joined by his brother, the late Scott Whitaker, who became the studio's supervising story editor.

He accepted the challenge to organize a studio from scratch, and with a limited budget purchased some basic equipment and launched film production at BYU in 1953.

Under his guidance as director and producer of the studio for 22 years, the studios made more than 150 educational and religious films and many filmstrips for the LDS Church. His films included "Man's Search for Happiness," "Windows of Heaven"

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and "Johnny Lingo."

He retired from BYU in 1974.

Among his honors was an honorary doctorate of fine arts from BYU in 1971. He served on the board of directors of the Central Utah Chapter of the American Red Cross for six years.

He is survived by his wife Doris Youkstetter Whitaker of Provo; three sons and two daughters: William O. Whitaker, George E. Glen, R. Michael Whitaker, Joan Williamson and Carol Lloyd; 31 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

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Fennin
Walt
Disney

LDS filmmaker, 'Judge' Whitaker, dies at 77

PROVO — Wetzel Orson "Judge" Whitaker, 77, founder of the motion picture department at Brigham Young University, died Nov. 1, 1985, in a Salt Lake area hospital.

Mr. Whitaker was director and producer of BYU motion picture productions from 1952 to 1974, making more than 100 movies, mostly for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Earlier, he was an animator for 16 years for Walt Disney Studios in Los Angeles, where he developed the animation for early Donald Duck films

and later worked on "Alice in Wonderland," "Peter Pan" and "Cinderella." He was co-developer with his brothers of the Homestead Resort in Midway, Wasatch County.

He received many honors, including an honorary doctorate of fine arts from BYU in 1971. He also served for six years on the American Red Cross board of directors. He was active in the LDS Church, serving in many positions.

Mr. Whitaker spent his early years in Brigham City and Denver. He attended the Chicago Art Institute and

later worked as a staff artist for the St. Louis Times.

He was born Sept. 30, 1908, in Heber City to O.A. and Clara Fotheringham Whitaker. He married Doris Youkstetter on Jan. 14, 1931, in St. Louis. Their marriage later was solemnized in the Mesa, Ariz., Temple. She died Aug. 22, 1971. He married Louise Eccles Glen on May 18, 1973.

He is survived by his wife of Provo; three sons and two daughters: William O. Whitaker, Bellevue, Wash.; George E. Glen Cameron, Calif.; R. Michael

Whitaker, Mrs. Gary (Joan) Williamson and Mrs. Robert (Carol) Lloyd, all of Orem; 31 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; four brothers: Berlin W. Whitaker, Orem; W. Ferrin Whitaker and Russel O. Whitaker, both of Provo; John M. Whitaker, Stamford, Conn.

Funeral will be 11 a.m. Tuesday in the Pleasant View 6th Ward chapel, 2445 N. 650 East. Friends may call at Berg Mortuary of Provo, 6-8 p.m. Monday or at the ward chapel one hour before the service. Burial will be in the Midway Cemetery.

Movie Studio Creator Dies

Wetzel Orson Whitaker, 77, director and producer at the Brigham Young University Motion Picture Studio for 22 years and a former Walt Disney animator, died Friday, Nov. 1, 1985, at Cottonwood Hospital, Murray.



He was born Sept. 30, 1908, at Heber City to O.A. and Clara Fotheringham Whitaker. He married Doris Youkstetter Jan. 14, 1931, at St. Louis, Mo. The marriage was later solemnized in the LDS Mesa Temple. She died Aug. 22, 1971. He married Louise Eccles Glen May 18, 1973, in the Salt Lake City Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

He spent his early years at Brigham City and at Denver, Colo. He attended the Chicago Art Institute and later worked as a staff artist for the St. Louis Times. After moving to Los Angeles, Calif., he was with Walt Disney Studios as an animator for 16 years.

In 1952, he moved to Midway, where he participated in the development of the Homestead with his brothers. Later that same year, he was invited by President E.L. Wilkinson to come to Brigham Young University and establish the Department of Motion Picture Production. He served as director and producer for that department for 22 years. During this time, more than 100 movies were produced, a majority of which were for the LDS Church.

He received many honors, including an honorary doctorate of fine arts from BYU in 1971. He served for six years on the board of directors of the American Red Cross, Central Utah Chapter.

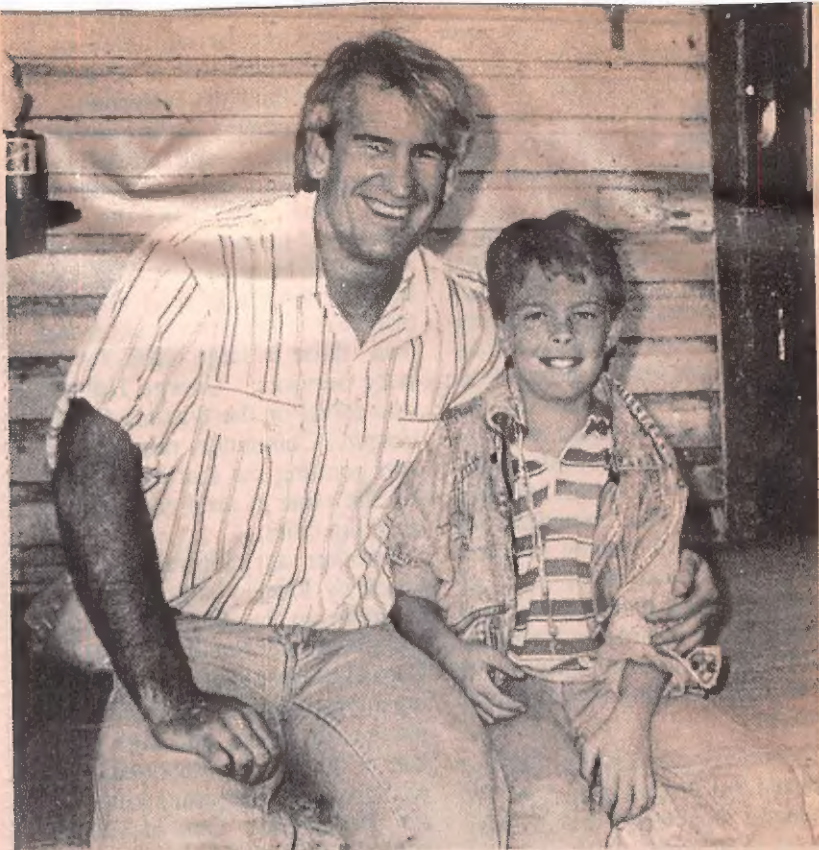
He was active in the LDS Church, serving in many capacities, including high counselor, bishop and a member of the stake presidency of the California San Fernando Stake.

Survivors include his wife, of Provo; three sons and two daughters: William O. Whitaker, Bellevue, Wash.; George E. Glen, Cameron Park, Calif.; and R. Michael Whitaker, Mrs. Gary (Joan) Williamson and Mrs. Robert (Carol) Lloyd, all Orem; 31 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and four brothers: Berlin W. Whitaker, Orem; W. Ferrin Whitaker and Russel O. Whitaker, both Provo; and John M. Whitaker, Stamford, Conn.

Services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at the



Nice Tie Production, Inc., of Hollywood, has made the Park City—Heber area their headquarters as they film for their new comedy. Scenes for the movie entitled "Ski Patrol" have been filmed at Chick's Cafe, Timberline Hardware store, the Midway Town Hall, and slopes in Park West and Park City, as well as this set built inside the Sun Classic building in Heber City, of a Victorian style boys college dorm. 3-29-89



11-year-old Michael Stevenson and Dr. George Hardy, a Salt Lake City dentist, are the stars in an Italian film, "Goblins," being filmed around Wasatch County. Appropriately, some of the scenes are being shot at the old feed store east of The Heber Creeper, often haunted by local goblins during the Halloween season.

Goblin Hangout Is Set For "Goblins" Movie Production

16 Aug 1989
The empty Hicken Feed Store, on First South in Heber City, which has been used as a Halloween haunted house, is being used by an Italian movie company as one of the sets for a movie titled "Goblins".

A Salt Lake City dentist has taken a few weeks off from his practice to star in the movie, playing the father of an American family, who trades homes with an Italian family for their summer vacations. But the Italian townspeople are half goblin, and vegetarians, who plot to turn the American family into vegetables for their culinary enjoyment.

Dr. George Hardy plays the father, and freckle-faced Michael Stevenson, 11, Salt Lake City, play the American father and son in the movie, which ends with an un-

expected twist.

Hardy said the feature film will be released by Filmirage in a few months in Italy, then on video for American audiences in about a year. He said little people have been hired to play the goblin side of the Italian locals, and Wasatch County residents are working as extras.

Hardy said he has a whole new feeling about the Heber Valley now that he has spent some time here and met some of the residents, which he said have been extremely friendly and "more than kind."

The home of Bill and "Hi" McNaughton, on Lake Creek Road, was also used as a set for some of the filming, with other scenes shot around the County, at Guardsman's Pass, in Morgan, and in Salt Lake City.